General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.28 and Add.1)]

58/23. The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

---

[1] A/58/264.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907,[1] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[2] continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

68th plenary meeting
3 December 2003

[1] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 40 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.22 and Add.1)*]

58/24. Emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/149 of 16 December 2002 on emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia,

Noting with concern the recurrent drought that affects Ethiopia, and its consequences,

Recalling the initiatives of the Secretary-General to improve food security, including the appointment of the Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa,

Gravely concerned at the magnitude of the recurrent drought, which affects millions owing to the serious crop failures in drought-prone parts of the country that have weak infrastructures and low development capacities,

Bearing in mind the joint 2004 appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, to respond to the food and non-food requirements of households in need so as to prevent the worsening of the current humanitarian crisis,

Noting with serious concern the significant and persistent humanitarian needs in such areas as health, water and acute malnutrition that still exist in parts of the country,

Noting also with serious concern the dire humanitarian situation and its long-term socio-economic and environmental impacts,

Emphasizing the need to address the crisis, bearing in mind the importance of the transition from relief to development, and acknowledging the underlying structural causes of recurrent drought in Ethiopia,

Recognizing that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lies with the Government of Ethiopia, while bearing in mind the important role played by the international community,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a strong early warning system in order to predict better and respond as early as possible to disasters and to minimize their consequences,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the coordinated and collaborative efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, the donor community, non-governmental organizations and other entities to avert, through their timely and generous response, a major humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia in 2003;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to respond in a timely manner to the joint 2004 appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, covering food and non-food needs, as well as to the urgent needs of programme interventions for 2004, aimed at addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity, and issues of recovery, asset protection and the sustainable development of the affected areas;

4. *Welcomes* the programme prepared by the Coalition for Food Security in Ethiopia, and encourages the international community to support the Coalition in realizing its main objective, namely, breaking the cycle of food aid dependency within the next three to five years, thereby enabling fifteen million vulnerable people to engage in sustainable productive activities;

5. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to strengthen mechanisms already in place to respond to such emergency situations, and appreciates their endeavours to increase the availability of food through domestic production and to ensure the access of households in need to food, health and water facilities;

6. *Further welcomes* the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in appointing a Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa, with the objective of mobilizing resources for relief support as well as the sustainable development of the affected areas;

7. *Invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue considering ways to enhance the mobilization of emergency relief assistance to cover the remaining humanitarian needs in Ethiopia;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners to integrate relief efforts with recovery, asset protection and long-term development and to address the underlying structural causes of recurrent drought in Ethiopia in a way that is, inter alia, in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper, including strategies that are aimed at preventing such crises in the future and that improve the resilience of the population;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Ethiopia to further strengthen its efforts to address the underlying structural causes of recurrent threats of drought as part of its overall economic development programme;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

69th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

[1] A/58/224.

United Nations A/RES/58/25

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 40 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.34 and Add.1)*]

58/25. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory, and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing also the importance of integrating risk reduction into development planning and post-disaster recovery,

Emphasizing further, in this context, the important role of development organizations in supporting national efforts to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster preparedness, response and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities to fulfil this requirement,

Welcoming the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Stressing that national authorities need to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters through, inter alia, implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction so as to reduce risks to people, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Taking into account the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, under the auspices of the United Nations,

Noting the critical role played by local resources, as well as by existing in-country capacities, in natural disaster response,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

Emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among developing countries of the capacities existing at the national, regional and international levels that could be deployed to assist them,

Emphasizing also the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery and reconstruction, and of strengthening the response capacity of affected countries,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, with facilitation by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, and in this context noting its resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance",

Encouraging, in this regard, efforts aiming at the strengthening of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and its regional groups, particularly through the participation in its activities of representatives of a larger number of countries,

Mindful of the effects that shortfalls in resources can have on the preparedness for and response to natural disasters, and underscoring, in this regard, the need to gain a more precise understanding of the impact of levels of funding on natural disaster response,

Underlining the need for further improvement in information and analyses available regarding needs, responses and funding related to natural disasters,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development"[1] and "Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations";[2]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to

[1] A/58/434.

[2] A/58/89-E/2003/85.

mitigate the effects of natural disasters, inter alia, by disaster prevention, including appropriate land use and building regulations, as well as disaster preparedness and capacity-building in disaster response and mitigation, and requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries in this regard;

4. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and mitigation to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

5. *Also stresses* that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182 and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disasters;

6. *Recognizes* that economic growth and sustainable development contribute to improving the capacity of States to mitigate, respond to and prepare for natural disasters;

7. *Reaffirms* that disaster risk analysis and vulnerability reduction form an integral part of humanitarian assistance, poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies and need to be considered in the development plans of all vulnerable countries and communities, including, where appropriate, in plans relating to the transition from relief to development, and affirms that within such preventive strategies, disaster preparedness and early warning systems must be further strengthened at the country and regional levels, inter alia, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with Governments of affected countries and regional and other relevant organizations with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of natural disaster response and reducing the impact of natural disasters, particularly in developing countries;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of establishing or updating, as appropriate, national disaster preparedness plans, as agreed upon at the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in 1999;

9. *Also emphasizes* the importance of enhanced international cooperation, including through the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist developing countries in their efforts to build capacities and to predict, prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

10. *Stresses* the need for partnerships among Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to promote training to strengthen preparedness for and response to natural disasters;

11. *Also stresses* the need to promote the access to and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters;

12. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate;

13. *Also encourages* in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remotely sensed images and geographic information system and global positioning system data, among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, and also notes in that

context initiatives such as those undertaken by the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the Global Disaster Information Network;

14. *Stresses* that particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and subregional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

15. *Recognizes*, in this regard, that the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system continues to be a valuable tool by which disaster management expertise is made available by Member States to respond to the sudden onset of emergencies;

16. *Welcomes* the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the promotion and coordination of disaster responses among United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian partners;

17. *Takes note with interest* of the initiatives taken by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme for the establishment of regional positions of disaster response advisers and disaster reduction advisers to assist developing countries in capacity-building for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in a coordinated and complementary manner;

18. *Encourages* further cooperation between the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to increase the capacity of these organizations to respond to natural disasters;

19. *Encourages* States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998, to consider doing so;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations and partners, to finalize establishment of, and then update periodically, the Directory of Advanced Technologies for Disaster Response as a new part of the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities;[3]

21. *Encourages* donors to consider the importance of ensuring that assistance in the case of higher-profile natural disasters does not come at the expense of those that may have a relatively lower profile, bearing in mind that the allocation of resources should be driven by needs, as well as the importance of making efforts to increase the level of assistance for disaster reduction and preparedness programmes and for disaster response and mitigation activities;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine ways to further improve the assessment of needs and responses and to enhance the availability of data regarding funding in response to natural disasters and to consider concrete recommendations to improve the international response to natural disasters, as necessary, based on his examination, keeping in mind also the need to address any geographical and sectoral imbalances and shortfalls in such responses, where they exist, as well as the more

[3] www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/programs/response/register.html.

effective use of national emergency response agencies, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

69th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 40 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.35 and Add.1)*]

58/26. Emergency humanitarian assistance to Malawi

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions in particular, resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 54/219 and 54/233 of 22 December 1999, 55/163 of 14 December 2000 and 56/103 of 14 December 2001, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002,

Convinced that all people have the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, medical care, necessary social services and security in the event of lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control,

Noting that drought and other types of natural disasters have proved to be recurring phenomena in Malawi,

Reiterating that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of affected countries, although the long-term consequences of such natural disasters are especially severe for poor developing countries, including Malawi, and hamper sustainable development,

Concerned that Malawi continues to face natural catastrophes such as drought, floods and heavy rains, causing serious crop failure, loss of life and extensive damage to property and infrastructure,

Noting that an increasing number of cases of malnutrition, particularly among children, and deaths due to hunger-related diseases continue to occur in Malawi, with adverse long-term consequences,

Deeply alarmed that the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS has increased the vulnerability of communities, creating greater levels of dependency and severely reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

Gravely concerned that the capability of the national economy to absorb such shocks has been seriously eroded and that the frequent occurrence of extreme natural disasters has increasingly contributed to the stagnation of social and economic development,

Acknowledging that national efforts are critical to prevent the deepening of the humanitarian crisis,

Noting with appreciation the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to complement the national efforts of Malawi,

Aware that international cooperation remains a critical factor for the success of all national efforts to address the crisis situation,

1. *Welcomes* the positive role of the Government of Malawi in the relief operations, in particular the close coordination between the United Nations system and the Government;

2. *Also welcomes* the launching by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat of the consolidated appeal for Malawi on 18 July 2002 and the humanitarian appeal for 2004 on 18 November 2003, as well as the continued monitoring of the situation, including through the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa;

3. *Requests* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to seek ways and means of improving the effectiveness of the United Nations consolidated appeals process;

4. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, the legislative and other appropriate measures necessary to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, inter alia, in the areas of disaster prevention, including building regulations and appropriate land use, as well as early warning, disaster preparedness and capacity-building in disaster response, and in that context requests the international community to continue to assist Malawi as the need arises;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhanced international cooperation, including with the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist Malawi in its efforts to build capacity and to predict, prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

6. *Stresses*, in that context, the need to further strengthen international cooperation in the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance in support of the efforts of Malawi to deal with natural disasters in all their phases, from relief and mitigation to development, including through the provision of adequate resources, and encourages the effective use of multilateral mechanisms;

7. *Also stresses* that emergency humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182, on the basis of human dimensions and needs;

8. *Urges* the international community to continue to support the efforts of Malawi to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, poverty and malnutrition in order to increase its capacity to cope during natural disasters;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

69th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

United Nations A/RES/58/27 A-B

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 28 and 40 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.32 and Add.1)*]

58/27. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/113 A of 6 December 2002 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1378 (2001) of 14 November 2001, 1383 (2001) of 6 December 2001, 1390 (2002) of 16 January 2002, 1401 (2002) of 28 March 2002, 1453 (2002) of 24 December 2002 and 1510 (2003) of 13 October 2003,

Reaffirming its continued strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Reaffirming its condemnation of all use of Afghan territory for terrorist activities, and welcoming the ongoing successful efforts of the Afghan people and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition to combat terrorism on their territory,

Convinced that the main responsibility for finding a political solution lies with the Afghan people themselves, expressing in this regard its full support for President Karzai and the Afghan Transitional Administration, and reaffirming its continued support for the implementation of the provisions of the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[1] including the holding of free and fair elections in 2004,

[1] Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (see S/2001/1154).

Convinced also that a political consolidation aimed at the adoption of a pluralistic and democratic constitution and the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic, fully representative and gender-sensitive government, which respects the rule of law, the human rights of all Afghans and the international obligations of Afghanistan and is committed to peace with all countries, can lead to durable peace and reconciliation,

Recognizing the urgent need for the creation of an effective and ethnically balanced Afghan national army, Ministry of Defence and national police force, and acknowledging the importance of the first steps taken in this regard by the Transitional Administration,

Reiterating that a fair and effective justice system that respects international norms and standards, including by ensuring the accountability of perpetrators of violations of human rights, remains of high importance,

Encouraging the Transitional Administration to consider initiating a process of national reconciliation,

Taking note of the positive developments in Afghanistan in the past two years, in particular the return of a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, the increased Afghan ownership as illustrated by the progress in implementing education and health programmes, the development of a comprehensive national budget, the introduction of the new currency, the publication of a draft text for a constitution, the beginning of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the reforms thus far in the security sector, and stressing that these processes should be expedited and carried through to completion,

Expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Afghanistan and the staff of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, stressing in particular in this regard the highly valuable role that the current Special Representative of the Secretary-General has played throughout the ongoing process,

Reiterating that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country and its institutions, as well as in efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, provide for rehabilitation and reconstruction and national capacity-building and facilitate the orderly return of refugees,

Recognizing the need for continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programmes, under the ownership of the Transitional Administration, of rehabilitation and reconstruction, and noting that visible progress in this regard can further enhance the authority of the Transitional Administration and greatly contribute to the peace process,

Commending the international efforts to help the Transitional Administration to provide a secure environment in Afghanistan, and stressing the need for a coordinated approach across all parts of the security sector and the importance of a national army and police force that are ethnically balanced, professional and accountable to legitimate civilian authorities,

Welcoming, in this regard, the important role played by both the International Security Assistance Force and its respective lead nations in improving security conditions in and around Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan,

Recognizing the need for Afghanistan and its neighbours to work closely together to promote peace, security, stability and mutually beneficial relations, including through trade and investment, and welcoming therefore the signature of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations on 22 December 2002[2] and the Declaration on Encouraging Closer Trade, Transit and Investment Cooperation on 22 September 2003,

Noting that, despite improvements in the security sector, the lack of security still remains the most serious challenge facing Afghanistan and Afghans today, expressing its deep concern over a number of recent security incidents in Afghanistan, including the terrorist attacks against United Nations staff, national and international humanitarian personnel and the International Security Assistance Force, noting the necessity of further enhancing the capacity of the Transitional Administration to exercise its authority nationwide, and commending the steps already taken in that regard,

Deeply concerned about the continued increase in the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, which is undermining stability and security, as well as the political and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan, and has dangerous repercussions in the region and far beyond, and welcoming in this context the commitment of the Transitional Administration to rid Afghanistan of this pernicious production and trade,

Recognizing that the social and economic development of Afghanistan, specifically the development of gainful and sustainable livelihoods in the formal productive sector, is an important condition for the successful implementation of the comprehensive national drug control strategy of the Transitional Administration,

Recognizing also the need for enhanced international cooperation and support to accelerate the implementation of the Afghan national drug control strategy, and looking forward in this regard to the international counter-narcotics conference in Kabul in 2004, to be hosted by the Transitional Administration, the United Nations and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the recent Security Council mission to Afghanistan and its report,[4] which contains several positive recommendations;

3. *Stresses* that the fragile situation in Afghanistan poses a continuing risk to peace and stability in the region, and expresses its determination to further assist the efforts of the Transitional Administration to prevent the use of Afghan territory for terrorism;

4. *Reiterates its strong support* for the Transitional Administration in the full implementation of the Bonn Agreement,[1] endorses its priorities, as presented in the National Development Framework and national budget, which are the restoration of the economic infrastructure, the strengthening of the central

[2] S/2002/1416, annex.

[3] A/58/616.

[4] S/2003/1074.

government, the constitutional process, the building of a national army and police force under civilian control, the verified and fair implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, demining activities, the rebuilding of the justice system, respect for human rights, and combating illicit drug production and trafficking, and urges the international community to support the efforts in these areas;

5. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the authority of the Transitional Administration, facilitating security sector reform and reconstruction efforts throughout the country and providing a secure environment for the constitutional process and the preparations for the general elections, and in this regard welcomes the recent expansion of the International Security Assistance Force mandate in accordance with the Bonn Agreement, as well as the progressive establishment of provincial reconstruction teams in various parts of Afghanistan;

6. *Calls upon* all Afghan groups to renounce the use of violence, respect human rights and international humanitarian law, respect the authority of the Transitional Administration and implement fully the provisions of the Bonn Agreement;

7. *Welcomes* the role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan, including through the provision of expert advice to the Constitutional Commission, and encourages the Transitional Administration and the international community to continue to provide appropriate assistance and support to allow the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission to fulfil its mandate;

8. *Stresses* the fundamental importance for a peaceful, democratic Afghanistan of the upcoming constitutional Loya Jirga and elections in 2004, in accordance with the time frame set out in the Bonn Agreement for the creation of a representative government, and underscores the need for the broad and open participation of all Afghans, including women, in the political process in a secure environment;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and equal participation of and representation by women in political, civil, economic, cultural and social life throughout the country, calls upon the Transitional Administration to protect and promote the equal rights of men and women, and notes in this respect the ratification by Afghanistan of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] on 5 March 2003;

10. *Commends and strongly supports* the important role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the staff of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in support of efforts of the Transitional Administration to fully implement the Bonn Agreement, and endorses the concept of the Assistance Mission as a fully integrated Mission under the authority of the Special Representative and with a light international footprint;

11. *Calls upon* donor countries to fulfil promptly their assumed commitments made at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002, and reiterated in Dubai on 21 September 2003, invites them to provide additional resources beyond those pledged so far, and also calls upon all Member States to provide humanitarian assistance and to support

[5] Resolution 34/180, annex.

the Transitional Administration through measures in accordance with the national development budget published by the Transitional Administration;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Transitional Administration to coordinate assistance, to formulate a strategy for the long-term development of Afghanistan and to allocate sufficient funds to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund;

13. *Calls upon* the signatories of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations[2] to respect their commitments under the Declaration, and calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of its provisions and to promote regional stability;

14. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the signing of the Declaration on Encouraging Closer Trade, Transit and Investment Cooperation as a further sign of the commitment of Afghanistan and its neighbours to closer regional cooperation;

15. *Calls upon* the members of the Tripartite Commission to redouble their efforts to support peace and security in the southern and south-eastern border areas of Afghanistan;

16. *Calls* for continued international assistance to the vast number of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration into society so as to contribute to the stability of the entire country;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Transitional Administration to respect fully the international obligations of Afghanistan with regard to narcotic drugs, and calls upon it to strengthen further its efforts to eliminate the annual poppy crop, as well as to efficiently enforce relevant national laws and regulations against narcotic drugs;

18. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Transitional Administration in the implementation of its comprehensive national drug control strategy, aimed at eliminating illicit poppy cultivation, which continues to constitute a serious threat to the successful political and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan, including through support for increased law enforcement, crop substitution and other alternative livelihood and development programmes and capacity-building for drug control institutions;

19. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors within Afghanistan and in neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them to strengthen anti-narcotic controls to curb the drug flow, and welcomes the presentation in Moscow on 29 October 2003 of the latest report of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on drugs in Afghanistan;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-eighth session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

70th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/113 B of 6 December 2002 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001[1] and the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuing effects of decades of conflict in Afghanistan, which have resulted in massive loss of life, extensive human suffering, serious violations of human rights, destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Mindful that Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and that some parts of its territory continue to be affected by serious drought,

Noting the accession of Afghanistan to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[6]

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, which constitutes a great danger for the civilian population and a major obstacle for the return of refugees and displaced populations and for the resumption of agricultural and other economic activities, the provision of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,

Welcoming the positive steps taken so far towards an improved situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for many Afghans, in particular women and children, and commending in this regard the positive role played by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and Afghan civil society organizations, while noting with grave concern, however, that there remain discriminatory practices that hinder the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its deep concern about reports of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law in parts of the country,

Reminding the Transitional Administration and all Afghan groups of their commitment to respect human rights in the country, as contained in the Bonn Agreement,

---

[6] See CD/1478.

Reaffirming the importance of the safety and security of the humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in Afghanistan, and alarmed by the increase in attacks on humanitarian personnel, including Afghan nationals, in parts of the country,

Noting with concern that the increase in such attacks has limited access to certain areas of Afghanistan and led to inadequate conditions for the delivery of aid for internally displaced persons and vulnerable sectors of the civilian population,

Recognizing that a secure environment is indispensable for the safe and effective delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance and is a precondition for rehabilitation, reconstruction efforts and long-term development, and welcoming the expansion of the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force to allow it, as resources permit, to support the Afghan Transitional Administration and its successors in the maintenance of security in areas of Afghanistan outside Kabul and its environs, so that the Afghan authorities, as well as the personnel of the United Nations and other international civilian personnel engaged, in particular, in reconstruction and humanitarian efforts, can operate in a secure environment, and to provide security assistance for the performance of other tasks in support of the Bonn Agreement,

Welcoming the ownership of the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts by the Transitional Administration through the National Development Framework and national budget,

Reiterating the importance of a seamless transition from humanitarian relief to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, and welcoming the important contribution that the integrated approach of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and of members of the donor community has made in this regard,

Expressing its appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their continued efforts in coordinating, planning and implementing humanitarian and other assistance in cooperation with the Transitional Administration,

Welcoming the return of large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, while noting with concern that displacement remains a widespread phenomenon and that the conditions in certain parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to safe and sustainable returns to places of origin,

Expressing gratitude to those countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time once again calling upon all groups to continue to fulfil their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Stresses* that the responsibility for the solution of the humanitarian crisis lies above all with the Afghan people themselves, and urges them to continue their efforts to achieve national reconciliation;

3. *Urges* all Afghan groups to actively support the Transitional Administration in meeting the responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[6] to cooperate fully with the mine action programme coordinated by the United Nations and to execute the destruction of all existing stocks of landmines;

4. *Stresses* the coordinating role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan for the United Nations system in ensuring a seamless transition from humanitarian relief to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, including the cooperation of the United Nations system with other actors in the international community, in particular with the international financial institutions;

5. *Commends* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Emergency Relief Coordinator for the work accomplished;

6. *Welcomes* the recent substantial contributions to the Law and Order Trust Fund, and at the same time regrets that the funding provided to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the Law and Order Trust Fund, which were designed to contribute to the mobilization of international support to Afghanistan, remains inadequate;

7. *Urges* the international community to actively participate in and financially contribute to these rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and encourages the international community to channel assistance through the national development budget of the Afghan Transitional Administration and to focus attention on building the capacity of Afghans;

8. *Strongly condemns* the recent deliberate attacks and all other acts of violence and intimidation directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and regrets the loss of life and physical harm suffered among such staff;

9. *Urges* the Transitional Administration and local authorities to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel, as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations;

10. *Notes* the ratification by Afghanistan of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] on 5 March 2003, and at the same time strongly condemns once again continuing discrimination against women and girls, as well as against persons belonging to ethnic and religious groups, including minorities;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of actively involving all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

12. *Reminds* all Afghan groups of their commitment to the Bonn Agreement,[1] and calls upon them to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with their obligations under international law, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men;

13. *Welcomes* the start of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process by the Transitional Administration and the efforts of the international observer group to verify the fairness of the process, and calls upon the international community to assist the Transitional Administration in these efforts;

14. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the accession of the Transitional Administration on 24 September 2003 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict,[7] and urges Afghan groups to refrain from the recruitment or use of children contrary to international standards, while stressing the importance of demobilizing and reintegrating child soldiers and other war-affected children;

15. *Emphasizes* the necessity of investigating allegations of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including violations committed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and girls, of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international law;

16. *Appeals* to the Transitional Administration and the international community to mainstream gender issues into all humanitarian assistance and future rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes and to actively promote the full and equal participation of and benefit to both women and men in respect of those programmes, underlining the importance of a senior gender adviser position in this context;

17. *Calls upon* the Transitional Administration to provide Afghan children with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, recognizing the special needs of girls, and to ensure their full access to those facilities;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, and reminds them of their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees and the right to seek asylum;

19. *Calls upon* the Transitional Administration, acting with the support of the international community, to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, welcomes in this respect the initiation of the National Area-Based Development Programme and the National Solidarity Programme, and calls upon the international community to provide adequate funding to these programmes which, inter alia, assist in the resettlement of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

20. *Urges* donors to fulfil promptly the funding commitments made in Tokyo at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan and reiterated in Dubai on 21 September 2003, and invites them to provide additional resources beyond those pledged so far;

21. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the Transitional Administration and Afghan civil society, all possible and necessary humanitarian, financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population, inter alia, a minimal degree of health care and health services in all parts of the country;

[7] Resolution 54/263, annex I.

22. *Calls upon* the international community to continue and strengthen its coordination of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, bearing in mind the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan;

23. *Also calls upon* the international community to respond generously and without delay to the national development budget, as well as long-term interventions towards rehabilitation and reconstruction;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-eighth session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

70th plenary meeting
5 December 2003

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 January 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 62 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/58/451)*]

58/28. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/72 of 4 December 1998, 54/43 of 1 December 1999 and 56/14 of 29 November 2001 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994, 51/38 of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then, national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Also convinced that transparency in military matters is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States worldwide and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

Noting the role of the standardized reporting system, as instituted through its resolution 35/142 B, as an important instrument to enhance transparency in military matters,

Conscious that the value of the standardized reporting system would be enhanced by a broader participation of Member States,

Welcoming, therefore, the report of the Secretary-General[1] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the standardized reporting system,

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations, and, in the same context, encourages Member States to submit nil returns, if appropriate;

2. *Recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

3. *Encourages* relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarity among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures;[2]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within available resources:

(*a*) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of data to the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, together with the reporting format and related instructions, and to publish in a timely fashion in appropriate United Nations media the due date for transmitting data on military expenditures;

(*b*) To circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

(*c*) To continue consultations with relevant international bodies, within existing resources, with a view to ascertaining requirements for adjusting the present instrument, with a view to encouraging wider participation, and to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the standardized reporting system;

---

[1] A/54/298.

[2] A/58/202.

(*d*) To encourage relevant international bodies and organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to consult with those bodies and organizations with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarity among international and regional reporting systems and for exchanging related information between those bodies and the United Nations;

(*e*) To encourage the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;

(*f*) To promote international and regional/subregional symposia and training seminars to explain the purpose of the standardized reporting system and to give relevant technical instructions;

(*g*) To report on experiences gained during such symposia and training seminars;

6. *Encourages* Member States:

(*a*) To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;

(*b*) To continue to provide the Secretary-General, in time for deliberation by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, with their views and suggestions on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

71st plenary meeting
8 December 2003